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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health :

W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law

Chief Public Health Inspector and Port Health Inspector :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.A.P.H.I.

Meat and Food Inspector :

J. F. ASPINALL

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

N. MORRIS, M.A.P.H.I.

(Resigned March, 1957)

P. WHITTON

D. H. MILSOM, M.A.P.H.I.

(Commenced duties May, 1957)

Chief Clerk :

D. DADY

Junior Clerk :

W. T. PRICE

Typist (part-time) :

Mrs. M. JACKSON

Pests Officer :

A. BROUGHTON

BOROUGH OF BOSTON AND PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

To :—The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Boston.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Statistical Report on the health conditions of the Borough during the year 1957. During this period my predecessor, Dr. W. G. Smeaton, was your Medical Officer of Health and this report deals with matters which arose while he was still in office.

The vital statistics given on the following pages compare favourably with those issued by the Registrar-General for England and Wales. It is encouraging to note that the infant mortality rate has fallen but even so, there must be no relaxation in the efforts to reduce it still further. Once again there were no deaths due to maternal causes.

Apart from Measles and Whooping Cough the incidence of the commoner infectious diseases was low during the year. The peak of the Measles epidemic was reached in March after which it gradually declined and ended about July. Only one case of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year and in this respect the Borough was very fortunate as this disease was very prevalent in many areas during 1957. More progress was made in respect of the poliomyelitis vaccination campaign and 482 children were immunised. This was largely due to the fact that supplies of vaccine greatly increased and more children became eligible for vaccination.

Food Poisoning occurred in 24 families, affecting a total of 31 individuals. This disease continues to be a problem throughout the country and it cannot be too strongly stressed that the prevention of food poisoning depends on the maintenance of a high standard of hygiene by all food handlers. The measures are, in the main, simple ; a high standard of personal hygiene, frequent hand washing, particularly after the use of the toilet, immediate first aid treatment for wounds of the hands and the need to report immediately any bowel, skin or other infection.

I am sure it would have been Dr. Smeaton's wish to thank the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and members of the Council for their consideration and help; the other officials of the Council for their co-operation and the entire staff of the Health Department for their loyal support and conscientious work during the year.

I should like to add my own thanks to the staff for the assistance given in the preparation of this report. It represents a great deal of responsible and laborious work by everyone in the Health Department. For them, there is often no spectacular success but only the satisfaction of ill-health and epidemics prevented and dangers overcome. I sincerely hope that both the Council and the public will appreciate the true value of their work.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. HIRD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.
August, 1958.

Part I

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

GENERAL STATISTICS:—

Area (in acres)	3,259
Home Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate for 1957)	23,980
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1957 (according to the Rate Books)	7,890
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1958	£307,228
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,225
Estimated average number of Persons per Inhabited House	3.0
Estimated average number of Persons per Acre ...	7.3
Average number of Inhabited Houses per Acre ...	2.4

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC.:—

The social conditions of the area have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS:—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)	17.9
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted)	17.5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	18.3
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude) ...	8.5
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted) ...	8.8
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) ...	Nil
Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:—	
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	25.6
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.9
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—	
(a) All infants, per 1,000 live births	11.7
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	12.2
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS

In the following comments on the Vital Statistics both the crude birth and death rates are given together with the rates after adjustment by the Comparability Factors. These factors have been supplied by the Registrar-General, and are intended to afford a means of adjustment to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Consequently, the adjusted birth and death rates enable a more accurate comparison to be made with the corresponding rates in other areas.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (e.g. infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

POPULATION :—

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for mid-1957 was 23,980, a decrease of 260 on the figure given for the previous year which was 24,240. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 225.

BIRTHS :—

A total of 429 live births (228 males, 201 females) were registered during 1957. The resultant crude birth rate of 17.9 per 1,000 of the population and the adjusted rate of 17.5 show a slight decrease on the corresponding rates for 1956 which were 18.1 and 17.7 respectively. The rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1957 was 16.1.

The number of illegitimate live births was 20 (16 males, 4 females) which is 4.7% of the total live births. The total illegitimate live births in 1956 was 25.

STILLBIRTHS :—

There were 8 stillbirths registered (5 males, 3 females) giving a stillbirth rate of 18.3 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, as compared with 22.3 in 1956. The rate for England and Wales for 1957 was 22.4.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—

There were no deaths under this heading in 1957.

INFANT MORTALITY :—

There were 11 deaths of infants under one year of age (6 males, 5 females), the resulting death rate per 1,000 live births being 25.6 as compared with 29.7 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1957 was 23.0.

The total number of infant deaths under 4 weeks of age was 5 (2 males, 3 females), giving a death rate of 11.7 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 20.5 in 1956.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—

The actual number of deaths allocated to the Borough after deduction of those occurring in non-residents and addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the Borough was 204. The resultant crude death rate of 8.5 per 1,000 of the population and the adjusted rate of 8.8 show a decrease on the corresponding rates for the previous year which were 9.8 and 10.2 respectively.

The figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1957 was 11.5.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOSTON M.B., 1957.

No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other ...	...	—
3.	Syphilitic disease ...	...	1
4.	Diphtheria ...	...	—
5.	Whooping Cough ...	...	—
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	...	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	—
8.	Measles ...	...	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	...	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	6	10
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	...	1
16.	Diabetes ...	...	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	9	22
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	15	14
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	2
20.	Other heart disease ...	18	19

No.	Cause of Death		Males	Females
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	2	2
22.	Influenza	...	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	5	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	7	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	2	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	—	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	12	15
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	3	1
34.	All other accidents	...	4	1
35.	Suicide	...	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—
	ALL CAUSES	94	110	—

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

I am indebted to N. H. Middlebrook, Esq., Meteorologist, for the following summary of the weather conditions of the area for the past two years as recorded by him at the Meteorological Station, Freiston Road, Boston.

	1957	1956
Days of measurable rain	181	173
Mean maximum temperature (normal 56.7°)	57.1°	55.0°
Mean minimum temperature (normal 42.1°)	43.1°	40.9°
Mean day and night temperature (normal 49.4°)	50.1°	47.9°
No. of days with temperatures between 70° and 79°	40	30
No. of days with temperatures 80° or over	2	Nil
No. of air frosts	39	70
No. of ground frosts	64	98
No. of days of snow or sleet	9	31
No. of days of thunderstorms	20	18
No. of days with winds reaching gale force	7	12

Total rainfall 22.72" against average of 24.18"

The year 1957 can be summed up as follows. Generally mild in the cold months, and (except for June which was warm) cool dull and rainy in the warm months. The most outstanding feature however has been the lack of extremes. No extreme heavy

rainstorms, no severe thunderstorms, no snow storms, no severe frosts, no violent gales, and except for two days in June no really hot days. With regard to rainfall, no single day has produced an inch of rain. This has not happened for many years. As far as weather is concerned it is a long time since Boston has had such an uneventful year. This has not been the case in some other parts of the country.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH

LABORATORY FACILITIES :—

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln. Samples of ice cream and water have been regularly submitted for examination and further details of this work will be found in Sections C and E.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, have continued to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :—

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the County Transport Department, Allan House, Carlton Road.

Four first line ambulances, including one of the most modern type, and five sitting case cars are based in the Borough. In addition an ambulance is reserved solely for the conveyance of infectious cases.

NURSING IN THE HOME :—

The home nursing service is under the control of the Local Health Authority.

PUBLIC MORTUARY :—

The Public Mortuary is managed by the Borough Engineer's Department. I am satisfied that the Mortuary is properly conducted and the facilities adequate.

HOSPITALS:—

All Hospitals in the area are under the control of the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows:—

Boston General Hospital — Acute General.

London Road Hospital — Orthopædic and Acute General.

White House Hospital, Fishtoft — Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital — Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton — Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Children's Hospital — Sick Children.

Bargate Clinic and Physiotherapy Centre, Boston —
Physiotherapy and Orthoptics

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES:—

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:—

Clinics are conducted by the Holland County Council at Ferry House, London Road, for Infant Welfare, Ante-Natal, Ophthalmic, Dental, Minor Ailments, Speech Therapy, Heart and Child Guidance.

The Cleansing Station continues to function at Ferry House, and further details with regard to the arrangements for the treatment of Scabies will be found in Section F of this Report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47. — REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION:—

No new cases requiring action under the above Section came to notice during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :—

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. D. H. Ball, Water Engineer, for the following report on the Borough Water Supply:—

(A) **Rainfall.** The rainfall recorded at Revesby Waterworks during the year 1957 was 25.27" as against 25.36" in 1956, but deducting evaporation the run-off was only 9.37" in 1957 against an average of 11". Rainfall at Fordington was 25.71" compared with 26.10" in 1956.

(B) **Volume of water supplied from Revesby and Fordington and received in bulk from Boston R.D.C. with comparisons for 1956.**

Year.	Thousands of gallons.				average G.P.D.
	Revesby.	Fordington.	from Boston R.D.C.	Total.	
1957	227,055	233,597	124,185	584,837	1,602
1956	198,940	277,203	159,781	635,924	1,738
Increase +					
Decrease —	+ 28,115	- 43,606	- 35,596	- 51,087	- 136

(C) **Volume of water supplied from Revesby and Fordington in bulk to the Rural District Councils of Horncastle and Spilsby with comparisons for 1956.**

Year.	Thousands of gallons.				Average G.P.D.
	Horncastle.	Spilsby.	Total.		
1957	14,402	8,685	23,087		63
1956	33,684	24,043	57,727		158
Increase +					
Decrease —	- 19,282	- 15,358	- 34,640		- 95

The average gallons per day supplied within the Corporation's Statutory Area amount to 1,539,000 or 51 gallons per head per day for all purposes including waste.

It is estimated that the domestic consumption equates to approximately 31 gallons per head per day.

A waste detection scheme is in operation for the whole Statutory Area of Supply.

(D) **Pressures.**

Pressures in the town show considerable improvement on former years.

(E) **Extensions and Renewals of mains during 1957.**

Borough.		Water Main Extensions 1957	Type of pipe	Length yds.
1. Woad Farm Estate	...	$1\frac{1}{2}''$ 2" 3" 4" 4" 6"	A.C. A.C. C.I. A.C. C.I. A.C.	75 200 60 1290 } 215 } 150
2. King's Avenue	...	4"	A.C.	200
3. Jubilee Avenue/Robin Hood's Walk	...	3"	A.C.	256
4. Broadfield Lane	...	3"	A.C.	40
5. Burton Close (off Spilsby Road)	...	4" 3"	A.C. A.C.	95 } 25 }
				<hr/> 2606
				<hr/> = 1.48 miles

Rural Area (within the Statutory Area of Supply)

Parish of Fishtoft (Boston R.D.C.)

		Dia.	Type of pipe	Length yds.
6. Meridian Road	...	4"	A.C.	60
7. Eastwood Road	...	4" 4"	A.C. C.I.	390 } 40 }
8. Eastwood Close	...	2"	A.C.	120
9. Red Cap Lane	...	3" 3"	A.C. C.I.	455 } 30 }
				<hr/> 1095
				<hr/> = 0.62 miles

Water Main Renewals 1957

	In Borough Location		Dia. orig.	Dia. new	Type of pipe	Length yds.
1. Brady Street	...	...	1½"	3"	C.I.	95
2. West Street	(Bridge Street to Municipal Buildings)		5"	6"	C.I.	130
3. King Street	(Broadfield St./Blue Street)	...	2"	4"	C.I.	75
4. Blue Street	...	...	2"	4"	C.I.	160
5. Anwick Place	...	...	2½"	4"	C.I.	70
						<hr/>
						530
						<hr/>
						= 0.3 miles

(F) Quality of Water.

- (1)a The water supply of the area has been, in my opinion, satisfactory throughout the year.
- (1)b The quantity of water available has been satisfactory.
- (2) Monthly samples of the raw water and treated water passing to supply at Revesby and Fordington are submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological analysis. No adverse report has been received. Copies of all reports are submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, who in turn supplies me with copies of reports received in respect of samples taken from the town mains at frequent intervals. It is hoped that one day iron removal and softening plant will be installed at Fordington.
- (3) The water has no plumbo-solvent action. No form of contamination detected.
- (4) The proportion of the houses in the Borough supplied by standpipes and outside taps is relatively small and mainly confined to old parts of the town.

1% of the approx. 7,000 houses are without a piped water supply. For the purpose of this report, standpipes and yard taps are treated as piped supplies.

D. H. BALL,

Borough Water Engineer.

26th February, 1958.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :—

(a) West Side Sewerage Scheme :—

Installation of new air compressor equipment and alterations to building at Woodville Road Pumping Station completed and additional machinery received in preparation for the erection of the Main Pumping Station — London Road.

- (b) Further extensions to sewers on Woad Farm Housing Site have been carried out.
- (c) Routine maintenance and sewer cleansing has been carried out.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE SCHEMES :—

A weekly system of house refuse collection has been maintained. Controlled tipping is carried on at the old Golf Course. Salvage collections of waste paper continue to be maintained at satisfactory levels.

Costs for the year ending 31st March, 1957, were :—

		£
Collection	...	19,215
Disposal	...	3,545
		22,760
Less income from salvage, trade refuse, etc.	...	6,395
		Net Cost
		16,365
Net cost per ton	...	27/11d.
Net cost per 1,000 of population	...	£669
Weight per 1,000 of population	...	26.7 cwts.

SWIMMING BATHS :—

Regular sampling of the bath water was achieved thanks to the co-operation of the County Public Health Inspector. With two exceptions, the results of the samples proved satisfactory, but it was necessary on one occasion to close the bath for a day for it to be emptied and cleaned out, following a report that a sample showed evidence of pollution.

It seems likely that the filtration plant will be installed and ready for operation during the 1958 season, provided that no unexpected snags are encountered. This should prove to be a boon to all bathers as at present the water has to be grossly over-chlorinated in the early part of the day in order to retain a reasonable degree of chlorination while the bath is in use.

MEASURES AGAINST INFESTATION :—

(a) Rodent Control :—

The usual twice yearly sewer treatments were carried out but as an experiment, Warfarin in a mould inhibited bait base was used for the second one. This proved to be a failure as it produced considerable bait shyness and in any case the bait went mouldy within a comparatively short time.

The number of surface infestations showed a slight increase but none of them created a serious problem. The number of complaints of infestation also increased and it is surprising to find that many householders cannot or will not deal with mice. The department is always willing to assist old people in such circumstances but I think it not unreasonable to expect the ordinary householder to be able to exterminate their own mice.

The following table gives comparative figures of the work done by the Pests Officer during the last three years.

Year.	No. of premises treated.	No. of bodies recovered.
1955	651	380
1956	385	602
1957	415	594

(b) Verminous Houses :—

The number of premises treated for vermin is as follows:—

Bed Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cockroaches, Ants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION IN THE BOROUGH :—

The following information has been supplied by Mr. G. E. Chamberlain, the Chief Public Health Inspector, who is also responsible for the preparation of the remainder of this section, Section D and much of Section E.

This has been a comparatively stable year as far as staff is concerned, the only change being the departure at the end of March of Mr. N. Morris, who was replaced at the beginning of May by Mr. D. H. Milsom, who came here from the County Borough of Leicester.

I am also pleased to report that Mr. R. Sissons, who is undertaking a three year course of training at the Royal Techni-

cal College, Salford, spent approximately six months in the department receiving practical training as a public health inspector.

The major emphasis this year has been on slum clearance and the inspection of food premises but meat inspection still occupies too many man-hours, due to the fact that so many slaughterhouses are in operation.

INSPECTIONS:—

Dwellings.

Inspected under the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	253
Inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	487
		—	740

Re-inspections.

Under the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	425
Under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	295
		—	720
Overcrowding	...	...	58
Smoke Observations	...	...	27
Offensive Trades	...	...	3
Workplaces and Offices	...	...	1
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	3
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	45
Butchers' Shops	...	...	27
Prepared Food Premises	...	...	10
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	38
Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	11
Bakehouses	...	...	16
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	30
Food Shops and Premises	...	...	133
Market Stalls	...	...	25
Dairies	...	...	27
Food and Drugs Act Revisits	...	...	6
Food Poisoning Investigations	...	...	31
Food Poisoning Revisits	...	...	150
Dysentery Investigations	...	...	44
Dysentery Revisits	...	...	102
Factories	...	...	40
Factories Revisits	...	...	23
Outworkers' Premises	...	...	2

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	4,355
Rat Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	40
Port Sanitary—Vessels Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	230
Pet Animals Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	4
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	190
					TOTAL	7,155

Samples Taken.

Water

Public Supply	...	...	...	...	...	89
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	33
Other	...	...	...	...	...	6
						— 128
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	34
Mussels	...	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	77

Drains and Sewers.

Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	64
Drains Cleared	...	...	...	...	...	77
Sewers Cleared	...	...	...	...	...	297

OFFICE WORK:—

Informal Notices.		Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1957...	...	43	38
Public Health Act, 1936...	...	55	26
Dustbin	...	34	22

Statutory Notices.		Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1957, Sec. 9	...	2	3
Public Health Act, 1936...	...	19	19
Dustbin	...	6	6
Conversions	...	5	3

PREMISES DISINFECTED:—

Tuberculosis	2
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NUISANCES REPORTED AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED:—

Total number of complaints received	549
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The following are details of complaints received and remedied:—

Defective Dustbins	3
General Housing Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Defective W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fleas, beetles, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Ants	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wasps' nests	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
Choked drains and sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Defective yard and passage paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS :—

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR :—

Defect	No. found	No. Remedied	
		(a) Informally	(b) By Statutory Action
Roofs	24	20	2
Chimneys	5	3	1
Pointing of external walls	3	4	2
Brickwork	2	1	—
Gutters and down pipes	12	13	4
Boundary walls or fences	2	3	—
Wall plaster	28	29	3
Ceiling plaster	15	20	6
Doors and door frames	8	11	2
Windows and window frames	15	10	4
Sash cords	8	12	7
Floors (solid)	1	1	1
Floor boards	5	5	3
Skirtings	1	1	—
Firegrates or ranges	13	9	7
Treads and risers	2	1	—
W.C. roofs	1	3	1
W.C. walls	3	3	—
W.C. doors and door frames	2	2	1
W.C. pans	2	1	1
W.C. seats	4	4	—
W.C. flushing cisterns	14	7	3
W.C. flushing pipes	14	6	4
W.C. water service pipes	14	7	4
Yard and passage paving	7	7	1
Drains	10	3	3
Sewers	1	—	1
Inspection chambers	5	2	1
Dustbins	34	22	6
Water supply	5	3	1
Sinks	8	1	1
Sink waste pipes	9	3	2
Yard gullies	10	4	1
Cesspools	1	—	1

Other Items

WATER—

The quality and purity of the town's water, as delivered to the consumer, has been maintained satisfactorily. Of 80 samples submitted for bacteriological examination, one only was reported upon adversely. The trouble in this case was rapidly overcome by mains flushing.

The following table classifies the results of the samples examined bacteriologically and in addition, satisfactory reports were received on ten samples submitted for chemical analysis.

Class I	Class II	Class III (suspicious)	Class IV (unsatisfactory)
77	1	Nil	1

COMMON LODGING HOUSES:—

There is only one common lodging house in the Borough, housing approximately 20 men. It is almost continually full with many permanent residents. The standard of cleanliness is low but periodic cleansing has been achieved. The owner has carried out any repairs that have been requested and these have been numerous.

FACTORIES :—

There has been a small increase in the number of factories on the register but once again only a small proportion of the total number was inspected. The number of contraventions discovered was small and in general they were remedied with little difficulty.

The following tables give particulars of the visits made to factories during 1957.

Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	15	5	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	203	54	1	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	11	4	2	Nil
Total	229	63	3	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found	Remedied	Referred			
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	11	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :						
(a) Insufficient	2	4	Nil	2	Nil	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	3	Nil	3	Nil	
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Total	18	16	Nil	5	Nil	

OUTWORKERS' PREMISES:—

There is only one registered outworker in the Borough, a lady who for many years has made hairnets for a London firm. The premises are satisfactory.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Number of Houses erected in the Borough during the year:—

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(a) By private enterprise ...	62	16	Nil
(b) By the Council	70	11	4

Number under construction at the end of 1957 :—

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(a) By private enterprise ...	22	6	Nil
(b) By the Council	21	1	Nil

SLUM CLEARANCE

Two more clearance areas were declared comprising altogether 78 houses. It was decided to proceed by way of compulsory purchase and as a result, action was not completed during 1957.

The following tables contain details of the work of demolition, rehousing and repair carried out during the year. There are no unfit houses in temporary use and no houses were purchased by agreement.

REPAIR AND DEMOLITION :—

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE.

(A) Houses Demolished

	Houses Demolished	Displaced Persons	during quarter Families
In Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957)			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	7	61	20
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	21	41	17

(B) Unfit Houses Closed

	Number		
(5) Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35, Housing Act, 1957 ..	2	9	2
(6) Under Section 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

(C) Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(8) After informal action by local authority	71	—
(9) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	13	5
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	2	1
(10) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ..	Nil	—

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION:—

The quantity of meat inspected was substantially the same as in 1956 but as the department had a full staff for almost all the year, the task was easier. Unfortunately it still involves a great deal of late evening and weekend work which makes it an unpopular and frequently irksome task. That a great deal of this is unnecessary has been proved by one of the wholesalers who, by the provision and intelligent use of cold storage space has practically eliminated evening work and has considerably reduced his weekend slaughtering.

For the third year in succession, I must deplore the absence of the new regulations governing standards of construction and hygiene in slaughterhouses. Draft regulations have appeared but previous experience teaches that the regulations finally approved by Parliament may be very different from the draft and for that reason it is difficult to advise butchers who may be anxious to carry out improvements but are not keen on doing them twice.

The number of animals slaughtered must be very close to the number inspected but with eleven slaughterhouses in use it is always possible that 100% inspection is not achieved and for this reason no figures of numbers killed are quoted.

The following tables give details of the numbers of carcases inspected and the amount of meat condemned.

Meat Destroyed

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total
Carcases whole with offal	273	35	97	405
Forequarters	91	Nil	4	95
Hindquarters	17	Nil	1	18
Plucks	Nil	1	516	517
Heads and Tongues	662	2	953	1617
Livers	1462	12	601	2075
Lungs	1483	Nil	82	1565
Intestines	36	Nil	20	56
Miscellaneous	344	12	275	631
Meat	396 lbs.	Nil	282 lbs.	678 lbs.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ..	4208	2905	584	13290	38472	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned	10	43	6	32	82	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	394	1284	9	9	1057	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.6	45.7	2.6	.3	3.0	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	26	183	3	3	15	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	235	744	—	4	953	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.2	31.9	.5	.05	2.5	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	4	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	2	—	—	—	—

MILK AND OTHER FOODS :—

Premises inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations include all bakeries, butchers' manufacturing premises and fried fish shops. It is frequently found that compliance with the structural sections of the regulations is not easy but so far no certificates of exemption have been issued. Once more an increase in the use of refrigeration has been noted with satisfaction and I am particularly pleased to see refrigerated display cabinets being installed for cooked meats.

ACTION UNDER REGULATION 20, MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 :—

No action was necessary under the above Regulation during 1957.

FOOD POISONING :—

Thirty-one cases of Food Poisoning, involving 24 families, were confirmed during the year.

Prompt investigations were made in an endeavour to trace the cause of the illness, but in no case was it possible to recover any specimens of suspected food for analysis. On examination of faeces, the infecting agents were revealed as *Salmonella Bredeney*, *Salmonella typhi-murium*, *Salmonella heidelberg* and *Salmonella enteritidis*.

The majority of the cases were quickly cleared, but two of the families, consisting chiefly of aged persons, proved to be very difficult, and they finally refused to give further specimens.

BYE-LAWS UNDER SECTION 15, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 :—

The enforcement of the bye-laws has not created any difficulties, such breaches as have been observed being dealt with by verbal or written warnings.

ICE-CREAM :—

During the year five more premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream, and one for manufacture. The results of samples submitted for bacteriological examination are given in the following table :—

Samples examined by the Methylene Blue Test

Number of samples submitted ...	...	...	34
Number of samples classified Grade I ...		14	
Number of samples classified Grade II ...		13	
Number of samples classified Grade III ...		5	
Number of samples classified Grade IV ...		2	

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Table 1 shows the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the numbers admitted to hospital, and the total number of deaths.

Measles :—The epidemic of Measles which began in November, 1956, continued into the early months of the year, the peak being reached in March when 286 cases were notified. The total number of corrected notifications received during the year was 723 as compared with 152 in 1956.

The quarterly incidence was as follows :—

January—March	...	...	...	...	...	549
April—June	...	...	...	...	...	157
July—September	...	...	...	...	...	15
October—December	...	...	...	...	...	2

Whooping Cough :—An increase in the incidence of this complaint resulted in 145 confirmed cases as compared with 56 in 1956. Again the rate of notification was highest during the first three months.

Chicken Pox :—There was a slight increase in notifications, 90 cases being reported as compared with 70 in the previous year.

Pneumonia :—The number of confirmed cases was 52 as compared with 38 in 1956. 15 cases were admitted to hospital and there were 2 resultant deaths.

Scarlet Fever :—There was a further decrease in notifications and only 7 cases were reported as compared with 15 in 1956.

Acute Poliomyelitis :—The only case notified during the year was a Non-Paralytic case, which was confirmed. The patient was removed to hospital in June and discharged during the following month.

Scabies :—One case was notified as compared with 9 in the previous year. Treatment was provided by the patient's own doctor.

The Holland County Council provides treatment for cases of Scabies occurring in the Borough, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the Corporation. Should medical practitioners request treatment for patients, details of notifications are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons receive early treatment.

Table I.
Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1957

Disease	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ..	1	1	1	Nil
Chicken Pox	90	90	1	Nil
Dysentery	8	8	3	Nil
Erysipelas	2	2	1	Nil
Food Poisoning ..	31	31	16	Nil
Malaria (contracted abroad)	2	2	2	Nil
Measles	724	723	10	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	53	52	15	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	16	14	Nil
Scabies	1	1	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	7	7	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ..	146	145	1	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS:—

Cases notified within the Borough come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

Table II.
TUBERCULOSIS.
Showing New Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—

All arrangements in connection with immunisation within the Borough are under the control of the Holland County Council.

The following figures, supplied by the County Health Department, give details of the number of immunisations carried out during the year.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	293
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	40
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	32
						365
Number of Booster Injections	...	...	...	...	...	384

Percentage of children immunised in relation to the child population at 31/12/57 :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	24.0%
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	81.9%
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	84.5%

Epidemics could again occur if the proportion of immunised children falls below the critical level. Immunisation is free, safe and simple and it is the duty of all parents to ensure that their children have the protection it affords.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX :—

Primary Vaccinations :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	144
1 year	...	...	...	...	...	6
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	7
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	20
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	19
						196

Re-vaccinations :

1 year	...	...	...	...	...	1
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	3
5-12 years	...	...	...	...	...	2
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	19
						25

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS :—

482 children were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis in 1957. Supplies of vaccine became more plentiful during the year and two further age groups, namely children born in the years 1955 and 1956, became eligible for vaccination in addition to those born in the years 1947-54 inclusive. Vaccinations can be done either by the family doctor or at one of the local Health Clinics and again it is free and safe. Boston was fortunate in that only one case of Poliomyelitis occurred during 1957 but an epidemic could occur at any time and parents are advised to take full advantage of this service.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PORT HEALTH INSPECTOR

PART II

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Year ended 31st December, 1957.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1957

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,
being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by
the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1957. This is a pleasure which is tinged with a certain amount of regret knowing that it will be my last Report in my capacity as your Port Medical Officer of Health as I shall shortly be commencing my new appointment in Peterborough.

Whilst there has been little change in the nature of the cargo traffic or in the principal ports from which vessels arrived, the trade of the Port has continued to give cause for satisfaction. The total number of vessels arriving has decreased slightly from 966 in 1956 to 939 in 1957, but vessels arriving from foreign ports have again increased from 682 to 746 for the same comparative years.

I am pleased to report that there has been a complete absence of any serious infectious diseases, and I am satisfied that the present arrangements are adequate to deal with any outbreak that may occur.

During the early part of the year some trouble was caused by several consignments of Italian Apples revealing excessive amounts of arsenic and lead, further particulars of which will be found in the body of the Report.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
W. G. SMEATON,
Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

February, 1958.

SECTION I—Staff

TABLE A

Name of officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
SMEATON, W. G.	Port Medical Officer of Health	1-7-50	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Barrister-at-Law.	Assistant C.M.O.—Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health—Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health—Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G. E.	Chief Port Health Inspector	15-10-45	Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.
MORRIS, N.	Additional Port Health Inspector	1-10-56 Resigned 31-3-57	Cert. S.I.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.
WHITTON, P. E.	Additional Port Health Inspector	1-10-56	Cert. S.I.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.
MILSOM, D. H.	Additional Port Health Inspector	29-4-57	Cert. S.I.B. Cert. Meat and Food Inspector	Additional Public Health Inspector—Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health.

} Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs.
BOSTON 4601 (six lines).

SECTION II—Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspectors	
Foreign Ports	746	153,712	12	197	Nil
Coastwise	193	32,339	Nil	33	1
Total	939	186,051	12	230	1

SECTION III—Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ..	Number of passengers INWARDS: 261. Number of passengers OUTWARDS: 116.
CARGO TRAFFIC ..	<p>Principal IMPORTS: Aluminium Ingots, Battens and Boards, Bulbs, Clay, Deals, Feeding Stuffs, Fertilizers, Flour, Fruit and Vegetables, Glucose, Grain, Paper, Perlite, Petroleum, Potatoes, Salt, Sleepers, Starch, Steel Bars etc., Telegraph Poles and Waggon Bottoms.</p> <p>Principal EXPORTS: Cattle, Coal, Grain, Pig Iron, Sand, Vehicle Spares, Waste Paper and General.</p>
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ..	<p>BELGIUM : Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, Hansweert, Rieme, Zeebrugge.</p> <p>DENMARK : Esbjerg, Fredericia.</p> <p>EGYPT : Alexandria.</p> <p>FINLAND : Hamina, Haukipudas, Helsinki, Kasko, Kemi, Kotka, Pateniemi, Uleaborg, Vasa.</p> <p>FRANCE : Bayonne, Bordeaux, Boulogne, Dieppe, Dunkirk.</p> <p>GERMANY : Bremen, Brunbuttel, Emden, Hamburg.</p> <p>HOLLAND : Amsterdam, Dordrecht, Koog-Aan-De-Zaan, Maassluis, Rotterdam, Ymuiden.</p> <p>NORWAY : Halden, Oslo, Porsgrunn, Skien, Sundalsora, Tyssedal.</p> <p>POLAND : Danzig, Stettin</p> <p>RUSSIA : Archangel, Kem, Leningrad, Onega, Petchora, Windau.</p> <p>SARDINIA : Cagliari.</p> <p>SPAIN : Almeria, Barcelona.</p> <p>SWEDEN : Burea, Gefle, Gothenburg, Halmstad, Karlshamn, Karlskrona, Kopmanholmen, Oskarshamn, Skelleftea, Stugsund, Sundsvall, Tunadal.</p>

SECTION IV—Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V—Water Supply

1. Source of supply for
 - (a) The District.
 - (b) Shipping. NO CHANGE.
2. Reports of tests for contamination. NO CHANGE.
3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes. NO CHANGE.
4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VI—Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

NO CHANGE.
2. Radio Messages.
 - (a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).
 - (b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

NO CHANGE.

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)).

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

NO CHANGE.

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

NO CHANGE.

5. Arrangements for :—

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox—see Section VII) :

NO CHANGE.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts :

NO CHANGE.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VII—Smallpox

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Laceby Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Arrangements have been made with the Medical Officer of Health for Grimsby that in all cases of smallpox the Isolation Hospital, Laceby, will provide ambulances and crews consisting of specially trained and vaccinated teams of attendants.

3. **Names of smallpox consultants available.**

Dr. J. H. C. Clarke, County Offices, Sleaford.	Dr. G. Nisbet, Bridge Street, Peterborough.	Dr. J. Glen, Springfield Hospital, Scarthoe, Grimsby.
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4. **Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.**

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor A. W. Downie, Bacteriology Department, Medical School, Ashton Street, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII—Venereal Disease

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION IX—Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships.	Rubella	Nil	1	1

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1957.

SECTION X—Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI—Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1957.

SECTION XII—Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester 10.

During the year no ships were found to be infested with rats.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Health Inspector.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

No ships were found to be rat infested.

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons	13
Ships from 301—1,000 tons	12
Ships from 1,001—3,000 tons ..	1
Total	26

SECTION XIII—Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G
Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Defects of Original Construction	230	Nil	Nil	—
Structural Defects through wear and tear	230	Nil	2	2 sailed before completion
Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health	232	Nil	4	2 complied with 2 sailed before compliance
Total ..	232	Nil	6	2 complied with

**SECTION XIV—Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations,
1934 and 1948**

NO CHANGE.

SECTION XV—Medical Inspection of Aliens

NO CHANGE.

SECTION XVI—Miscellaneous

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION XVII—Food Inspection

Imported Italian Apples.

During the early part of the year Italian Apples were imported into Boston and, on analysis, numerous samples revealed amounts of arsenic and lead beyond the recommended limits. These impurities were found mainly in the form of a deposit on the skin and around the calyces, consistent with the residue from a lead arsenate spray.

In all 18 samples were examined and 9 were found to contain lead and arsenic in excess of the recommended limits.

Appropriate local action was taken and reports were submitted to the Ministry of Health who in turn approached the Italian Embassy with a view to the necessary steps being taken to avoid further occurrences of this nature.

